

IDENTIFYING PROGRAMS & FUNDING FOR MINNESOTA POLLINATOR HABITAT

Available funding for habitat projects plays a key role in the support of pollinator populations. The table on the following page summarizes state and federal water quality and habitat focused conservation programs that can be used to restore pollinator habitat as primary or secondary project goals.

Most of the state programs listed in the table are focused on solving water quality issues or providing high quality habitat and are competitive grant programs. The federal sources listed generally have primary goals of restoring habitat and environmental quality as part of agricultural production.



Local <u>conservation districts</u> and <u>watershed districts</u> are generally the most knowledgeable about what state and federal programs may be the best fit for an individual project; and if there are other "local" sources of funding that could be used for smaller projects that may not be eligible for state or federal funding. The last row of the table lists potential sources for smaller planting projects.









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This table is designed to aid the selection of conservation programs that can be used to restore pollinator habitat. The table summarizes state and federal programs, and sources of additional match. Links in blue text provide funding for projects solely on agricultural land while those in brown text are for urban or agricultural land. Landowners should work with local NRCS, SWCD or DNR staff as needed for additional guidance.

Program Categories	Program	Program Goals	How to Incorporate Pollinator Habitat	
State Programs	<u>Clean Water Fund</u> (<u>BWSR)</u>	To protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.	These competitive grants focus on water quality issues. However, plantings done as part of projects such as rain gardens or stormwater basins encourage secondary benefits such as pollinator habitat. Plans for restoring pollinator habitat should be included in the competitive grant application. There is no minimum acreage size for projects.	
	State Cost-Share (BWSR)	To provide grants for installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.	This program involves partnerships with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Diverse plantings are encouraged and should be included in project plans when applicable for the project type to provide pollinator habitat. There is no minimum acreage size for projects.	
	Reinvest in Minnesota RIM (BWSR)	To restore marginal and environmentally sensitive agricultural land, protect soil and water quality, and restore fish and wildlife habitat.	A competitive process is used to select lands for the establishment of permanent conservation easements. The land remains in private ownership and the landowner retains responsibility for maintenance. Diverse mixes are promoted for plantings, and separate floral rich pollinator plantings of a few acres in size can be included. Funding may also be available to enhance diversity in existing plantings. There is a three acre minimum size for projects.	
	Roadsides for Wildlife (MDNR)	To reduce disturbance of roadside cover until after August 1st; Include native prairie species in roadside plantings; Explain the benefits of a diverse and undisturbed roadside environment.	Currently funding is not available for this program. The following things can be done to promote roadside habitat for pollinators: Improve the management of your adjacent roadsides for wildlife. Encourage other landowners and local road authorities to reduce mowing and haying during the nesting season. Promote pollinator cost-share assistance for new or re-vegetated roadside projects. Discuss opportunities to partner on roadside projects with local road authorities.	
	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program CPL (MDNR)	To enhance, restore, or protect the forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota.	These Competitive grants focused on restoring wildlife habitat are provided to local, regional, state, and national nonprofit organizations, including government entities. Diverse plantings are promoted for projects and detailed information about plans for restoring pollinator habitat should be included in grant applications. There is no minimum acreage size for projects.	
	Living Snow Fences (MN DOT)	To protect roadways and provide multiple environmental and agricultural benefits.	Funding is available to install living snow fences and guidance is provided about how to best benefit pollinators with the plantings.	
Federal Programs	Conservation Reserve Program CRP and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP (FSA)	To retire and convert highly erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover.	Funding is available to provide 50% cost-share for pollinator plantings using practice standard CP42 that require 3 species from each bloom period (9 minimum) and a minimum 75% forbs in plantings. 10-15 year contracts are used for CRP. There is no minimum acreage size for projects. There is also a new mid-contract management option to enhance honey bee habitat through establishment of honey bee beneficial cover.	

	Conservation Stewardship Program CSP (NRCS)	To encourage agricultural producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner.	Pollinator plantings are eligible through require a minimum of 15 species and a as species selected from each flowering fall are required. There is no minimum	minimum of 50% forbs, as well group of spring, summer and
	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP (NRCS)	To provide support for grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and restoration and protection of grasslands under threat of conversion to other uses.	Agricultural Lands Easements (ALE) - Participants may conduct prescribed burning, and construct fences to improve diversity and grassland quality. Enrollment options include 30 year or permanent easements. A grazing management plan is required for participants that can address management for pollinator species. There is no minimum acreage size for projects.	
		Provides assistance to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands and adjacent uplands through wetland reserve easements and plans.	Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) - E year or permanent easements. A restor participants that can provide specific gu management to benefit pollinator speci projects.	ation plan is required for uidance on seed mixes and
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP (NRCS)	To promote compatibility between agricultural production and environmental quality through technical and financial assistance.	Funding is available for pollinator habita honey bees. Through an agreement land practice (1-10 years). There is a minimu as well as species selected from each flow summer and fall are required for pollinating minimum acreage size for projects. The for the development of a Pollinator "Coto maximize pollinator habitat."	downers agree to maintain the im of 75 % forbs for seed mixes, owering group for spring, ator plantings. There is no program also provides funding
Match	Landowner Match		Local Sportsmen's Clubs	Master Gardeners
Sources for	Local Foundations		Environmental Non-profits	Schools
Programs	Garden Clubs		Watershed Districts	School Clubs
	Soil & Water Conservation Districts Counties		Cities Lake Associations	
	Private Companies		Neighborhood Associations	
	r iivate Companies		Neighborhood Associations	